

Message Text

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12
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /057 W
----- 081005

R 181235Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9719

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT OF SPAIN 2409

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, TD
SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT COASTS WHILE NEW CABINET AND
PARLIAMENT BEING FORMED

1. IN VIEW OF SEVERAL PENDING MATTERS EMBASSY HAS BEEN REQUESTED TO DISCUSS WITH TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO GOVERNMENT, BELIEVE USEFUL FOR DEPARTMENT TO KNOW THAT ALL DECISION-MAKING WITHIN GOTT VIRTUALLY AT STANDSTILL AND THERE IS AT PRESENT NO CABINET WITH WHICH TO CONSULT. EVEN PERMANENT SECRETARIES IN MANY INSTANCES UNAVAILABLE.

2. FOLLOWING MONDAY'S ELECTION, PRESIDENT HAS CALLED UPON DR. ERIC WILLIAMS AGAIN TO FORM A GOVERNMENT AND HAS CALLED UPON ULF LEADER BASDEO PANDAY TO LEAD THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION IN PARLIAMENT. SELECTION OF SENATORS BY WILLIAMS AND PANDAY, AND OF INDEPENDENT SENATORS BY THE PRESIDENT, IS PROCEEDING, WITH ANTICIPATION THAT NEW PARLIAMENT MAY CONVENE LATTER PART OF NEXT WEEK. PRIME MINISTER HAS THUS FAR MADE NO ANNOUNCEMENT ON NEW CABINET, ALTHOUGH REPORTS INDICATE THERE MAY BE AN ANNOUNCEMENT BY EARLY NEXT WEEK.

3. MEANWHILE, ALL PREVIOUS CABINET MINISTERS CEASED TO FUNCTION AS OF SEPT 14 WHEN PRESIDENT CALLED IN DR. WILLIAMS TO FORM NEW CABINET. GOVERNMENT IS DISTINCTLY COASTING WHILE AWAITING NEW CABINET
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APPOINTMENTS.

4. IN THIS SITUATION WE HAVE FOUND IT IMPRACTICABLE
TO CARRY ON MEANINGFUL CONSULTATIONS OR DISCUSS ANY
MATTERS REQUIRING EITHER DECISION OR NEW INITIATIVE
WITHIN THE GOTT. HIATUS SHOULD NOT LAST LONG, BUT FOR
NOW IT EXISTS. HOPEFULLY, BY END OF NEXT WEEK A
GOVERNMENT WILL AGAIN BE IN PLACE AND DURING FOLLOWING
WEEK WE CAN MAKE PROGRESS ON PENDING MATTERS.
FAY

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Message Attributes

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